

Law combats fraud against elderly and disabled

Wisconsin law (sec. 100.264, Stats.) provides additional punishment to those who take advantage of the elderly or disabled.

The legislation allows courts to impose additional forfeitures of up to \$10,000 for violations of consumer laws and rules including:

- False advertising
- Motor vehicle repair
- Landlord-tenant
- Home improvement
- Telecommunication and cable services
- Chain distributor schemes
- Mobile home parks
- Deceptive offers of employment
- Dating services
- Fitness centers
- Mail order
- Requiring purchases for receiving prizes.

Sends message

This law addresses the fact that the elderly and disabled are more likely to suffer losses than other persons due to their age, poor health, impaired understanding or restricted mobility. As a deterrent, this law sends out a clear message to anyone thinking of committing such an act in Wisconsin that we do not tolerate preying on the most vulnerable people in our society.

The new law may be applied in a number of situations including the guilty person knowing that the victim was elderly (age 62 and older) or disabled.

The law also applies if the guilty person's conduct caused an elderly or disabled person to suffer physical or emotional damage or loss of:

- A primary residence
- Principal employment or source of employment
- More than 25 percent of the property set aside for retirement or for personal or family care
- More than 25 percent of pension or retirement payments
- Essential assets to health or welfare.

The court must require that restitution be paid by

defendants before they pay
the additional forfeiture.

For more information, or to file
a complaint, contact the
Bureau of Consumer
Protection at:

(800) 422-7128

FAX: (608) 224-4939

TTY: (608) 224-5058

E-MAIL:

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